



## Climate change and nutrition: Creating a climate for nutrition security

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### Abstract:

**BACKGROUND:** Climate change further exacerbates the enormous existing burden of undernutrition. It affects food and nutrition security and undermines current efforts to reduce hunger and promote nutrition. Undernutrition in turn undermines climate resilience and the coping strategies of vulnerable populations. **OBJECTIVES:** The objectives of this paper are to identify and undertake a cross-sectoral analysis of the impacts of climate change on nutrition security and the existing mechanisms, strategies, and policies to address them. **Methods:** A cross-sectoral analysis of the impacts of climate change on nutrition security and the mechanisms and policies to address them was guided by an analytical framework focused on the three 'underlying causes' of undernutrition: 1) household food access, 2) maternal and child care and feeding practices, 3) environmental health and health access. The analytical framework includes the interactions of the three underlying causes of undernutrition with climate change, vulnerability, adaptation and mitigation. **RESULTS:** Within broad efforts on climate change mitigation and adaptation and climate-resilient development, a combination of nutrition-sensitive adaptation and mitigation measures, climate-resilient and nutrition-sensitive agricultural development, social protection, improved maternal and child care and health, nutrition-sensitive risk reduction and management, community development measures, nutrition-smart investments, increased policy coherence, and institutional and cross-sectoral collaboration are proposed as a means to address the impacts of climate change to food and nutrition security. This paper proposes policy directions to address nutrition in the climate change agenda and recommendations for consideration by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). **CONCLUSIONS:** Nutrition and health stakeholders need to be engaged in key climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives, including science-based assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and policies and actions formulated by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Improved multi-sectoral coordination and political will is required to integrate nutrition-sensitive actions into climate-resilient sustainable development efforts in the UNFCCC work and in the post 2015 development agenda. Placing human rights at the center of strategies to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and international solidarity is essential to advance sustainable development and to create a climate for nutrition security.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24605700>

### Resource Description

#### Exposure : ☐

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Food/Water Security

**Food/Water Security:** Agricultural Productivity, Food Access/Distribution, Nutritional Quality

**Geographic Feature:** 

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

**Geographic Location:** 

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

**Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):** 

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

**Health Impact:** 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

**Mitigation/Adaptation:** 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Population of Concern:** 

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Pregnant Women

**Resource Type:** 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Research Article, Research Article

**Resilience:** 

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

**Timescale:** 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

## **Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:**

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content